



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/664,289	09/16/2003	Katherine Woo	2043.140US1	4544
49845	7590	07/21/2008	EXAMINER	
SCHWEGMAN, LUNDBERG & WOESSNER/EBAY			LASTRA, DANIEL	
P.O. BOX 2938			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402			3688	
NOTIFICATION DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
07/21/2008		ELECTRONIC		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

USPTO@SLWIP.COM

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/664,289	Applicant(s) WOO, KATHERINE
	Examiner DANIEL LASTRA	Art Unit 3688

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED. (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-7,9-27 and 29-43 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-7,9-27 and 29-43 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/DS/06)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-7, 9-27 and 29-43 have been examined. Application 10/664,289 (METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR OFFERING A MONEY-BACK GUARANTEE IN A NETWORK-BASED MARKETPLACE) has a filing date 09/16/2003.

Response to Amendment

2. In response to Non Final Rejection filed 01/14/2008, the Applicant filed an Amendment on 04/21/2008, which amended claims 1, 10, 22, 38 and 42-43, cancel claims 8, 28. Applicant's amendment overcame the Claim 38 objection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-7, 9-18, 20-27, 29-39 and 41-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Junger (US 2004/0172260) in view of Lee (US 2004/0117383).

Claims 1, 22, 42 and 43, Junger teaches:

A method of providing a money-back guarantee for a transaction in a network-based marketplace, the method including:

receiving, over a network, a reimbursement request against the money-back guarantee for the eligible transaction (see paragraph 183);

Art Unit: 3688

responsive to receiving the reimbursement request, verifying the reimbursement request is eligible for the money-back guarantee (see paragraph 183); and

electronically reimbursing a buyer a predetermined amount associated with the eligible transaction and the money-back guarantee (see paragraph 184).

Junger does not teach providing a guarantee interface for the buyer to activate the money-back guarantee associated with the eligible transaction. However, Lee teaches that it is old and well known in the promotion art to purchase online extended warranties (see Lee co 15, claim 9). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the application was made, to know that Junger would allow customers to purchase online products from a e-tailer (see Junger paragraph 20) and to purchase online an extended warranty for said products, as taught by Lee in order to allow said customers to purchase a money-back guarantee for said products.

Claims 2 and 23, Junger teaches:

determining if a seller is eligible to offer the buyer the money-back guarantee (see paragraph 10).

Claims 3 and 24, Junger teaches:

offering the seller an option to offer the buyer the money-back guarantee if the seller is eligible (see paragraph 10).

Claims 4 and 25, Junger teaches:

providing a seller interface for the seller to choose whether the money-back guarantee is offered on the eligible transaction (see paragraph 183).

Art Unit: 3688

Claim 5, Junger teaches:

verifying that the eligible transaction is eligible for the money-back guarantee (see paragraph 183).

Claims 6 and 26, Junger teaches:

wherein the verifying includes determining that a transaction amount associated with the eligible transaction does not exceed a predetermined threshold (see paragraph 183).

Claims 7 and 27, Junger teaches:

wherein the verifying includes determining that a transaction occurred within a predetermined timeframe (see paragraph 123).

Claims 9 and 29, Junger teaches:

collecting a fee from the buyer for activating the money-back guarantee, wherein the fee is in addition to the associated transaction cost (see paragraph 24 "restocking fee").

Claims 10 and 30, Junger teaches:

calculating the fee base upon a predetermined percentage of the transaction amount plus a flat fee (see paragraph 24 "restocking fee").

Claims 11 and 31, Junger teaches:

receiving payment from the buyer for the money-back guarantee and the associated transaction cost and responsive to receiving the payment, generating a transaction identification number (see paragraph 28).

Claims 12 and 32, Junger teaches:

Art Unit: 3688

providing a reimbursement request interface for the buyer to submit the reimbursement request against the money-back guarantee associated with the eligible transaction (see paragraph 30).

Claims 13, 33 and 38, Junger teaches:

wherein the reimbursement request includes a transaction number, date of transaction, reason for the request, and type of item associated with the request (see paragraphs 30-31).

Claims 14 and 34, Junger teaches:

wherein the verifying of the reimbursement request includes verifying the eligibility of the transaction and seller for the money-back guarantee and verifying the buyer paid for the money-back guarantee (see paragraph 178).

Claims 15 and 35, Junger teaches:

reimbursing the buyer if an item associated with the eligible transaction is alleged to be defective (see paragraph 184).

Claims 16 and 36, Junger teaches:

reimbursing the buyer if an item associated with the eligible transaction is not received by the buyer (see paragraph 183).

Claims 17 and 37, Junger teaches:

reimbursing the buyer if an item associated with the eligible transaction is unwanted (see paragraph 183).

Claims 18 and 39, Junger teaches:

wherein the eligible transaction is an online transaction using the Internet (see paragraph 177).

Art Unit: 3688

Claims 20 and 41, Junger teaches:

wherein the online transaction is a fixed price transaction (see paragraph 184).

Claim 21, Junger teaches:

wherein the network-based marketplace supports transactions between a plurality of sellers and a plurality of buyers (see paragraph 183).

Claim 38, Junger teaches:

Wherein the network based marketplace supports transactions between a plurality of sellers and a plurality of buyers (see paragraph 28).

4. Claims 19 and 40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Junger (US 2004/0172260) in view of Lee (US 2004/0117383) and further in view of Harrison (US 2001/0039524).

Claims 19 and 40, Junger fails to teach wherein the online transaction is associated with an online auction. However, Harrison teaches an online auction where seller can refund buyers for auction products (see paragraphs 133-134). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the application was made, to know that Junger and Lee refund system would be applied to online auctions, as it is old and well known in the art to request refunds in online auctions, as taught by Harrison.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Art Unit: 3688

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DANIEL LASTRA whose telephone number is 571-272-6720 and fax 571-273-6720. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, ERIC W. STAMBER can be reached on 571-272-6724. The official Fax number is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/DANIEL LASTRA/

Art Unit 3688

July 16, 2008